

## P R E F A C E

I do, hereby, submit to the University of Calcutta for the Ph.D degree my thesis entitled "Inventory Management in Selected Central Government Companies" prepared under the supervision of Dr. J. B. Sarker, Reader, Department of Commerce, University of Burdwan and Faculty Member, Department of Commerce, The University of Calcutta, Calcutta.

One of the objectives of the public sector undertakings in a mixed economy is the generation of surplus to have a self-propelled economy. Among many other factors, profitability is a function of effective utilisation of fixed and current assets to this end. But the most depressing feature of public sector undertakings in India has been that its performance in terms of surplus generation has been appallingly poor despite huge investment in the same.

In view of this dismal fact, investigation in the sphere of the financial management in respect of utilisation of fixed assets and current assets deserves analysis. Among current assets, inventory is the most significant. Incidentally, as a component of current assets, in India, inventory on an average are more than 57 % of the current assets in the private sector and 60 % in the public sector companies. As such the objective of the present study has been to investigate empirically the position of inventory management in the public

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sector companies under the ownership and control of Central Government situated in the State of West Bengal, taking the sample from heterogeneous group of industries on random basis.

The study is based on the conceptual framework of inventory management as is available in the current literature in accounting and finance.

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PRIYA RANJAN CHOUDHURI